



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS  
Washington, D.C. 20231  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/482,679	01/14/2000	Uwe Heitmann	31653-152135	7334

26694 7590 02/14/2003

VENABLE, BAETJER, HOWARD AND CIVILETTI, LLP  
P.O. BOX 34385  
WASHINGTON, DC 20043-9998

EXAMINER
----------

LOPEZ, CARLOS N

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

1731

DATE MAILED: 02/14/2003

18

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Response to Arguments*

Applicant's arguments filed 4/9/02 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicant argues that Orihara fails to disclose a guide track formed by a generatrix based on a uniform curve. Applicant's claim 1 recites "a guide track having a generatrix based on a uniform curve" it is noted to applicant that said recitation does not claim that **the sliding surface** of the guide track should be based on a uniform generating curve. Secondly, claim 1 is not limiting the whole sliding surface or segments of the sliding surface comprising the guide track or as better worded by applicant in page 9, first paragraph "a guide track having a sliding surface based on a uniform generating curve". Therefore, Orihara discloses a guide track "having" a generatrix based on a uniform curve segment 38A as shown in figure 3 anticipating claim 1.

Additionally applicant argues that Orihara fails to disclose a an air jet extending continuously over the width of the guide track. In column 9, line 59-61, the air jet openings extend over the width of the guide track that would provide air jet streams continuously over the with of the guide track.

A generatrix is defined as a geometric element that generates a geometric figure, especially a straight line that generates a surface by moving in a specified fashion. Also called *generator*.<sup>1</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> *The American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language, Third Edition* copyright © 1992 by Houghton Mifflin Company. Electronic version licensed from INSO Corporation; further reproduction and distribution restricted in accordance with the Copyright Law of the United States. All rights reserved.


Art Unit: 1731

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Carlos Lopez whose telephone number is (703) 605-1174. The examiner can normally be reached on 8am-5pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Silverman Stanley can be reached on (703) 308-3837. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 305-7718 for regular communications and (703) 305-3599 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0651.

C.L  
April 18, 2002

  
**JOSE FORTUNA**  
**PATENT EXAMINER**